

# **2002 Annual Compliance Report Converse County (Spook), Wyoming, Disposal Site**

## **Compliance Summary**

The site, inspected on June 24, 2002, was in excellent condition. The access road north of the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River, although still passable, is becoming overgrown from lack of use. Healthy vegetation has established in the reseeded areas and erosion appears to have stabilized on the disposal site. A transformer platform and power line still service a water supply well that remains on the site, but the electricity meter has been removed. DOE executed an agreement allowing the adjacent landowner continued access to the well and use of the ground water. Ground water monitoring is not required at this site. Inspectors identified no requirements for maintenance or a follow-up or contingency inspection.

## **Compliance Requirements**

Requirements for the long-term surveillance and maintenance of the Converse County (Spook), Wyoming, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I disposal site are specified in the *Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Spook, Wyoming, Disposal Site* (DOE/AL/350215.000, Rev. 0, U.S. Department of Energy [DOE], Albuquerque Operations Office, January 1993) and in procedures established by the DOE Grand Junction Office to comply with requirements of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 40.27 (10 CFR 40.27). These requirements are listed in Table 18–1.

*Table 18–1. License Requirements for the Converse County (Spook), Wyoming, Disposal Site*

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Long-Term Surveillance Plan</b>	<b>This Report</b>
Annual Inspection and Report	Section 6.0	Section 1.0
Follow-up or Contingency Inspections	Section 7.0	Section 2.0
Routine Maintenance and Repairs	Section 8.0	Section 3.0
Ground Water Monitoring	Section 5.2	Section 4.0
Corrective Action	Section 9.0	Section 5.0

## **Compliance Review**

### **1.0 Annual Inspection and Report**

The site, in north central Converse County, Wyoming, was inspected on June 24, 2002. Results of the inspection are described below. Features mentioned in this report are shown on Figure 18–1. The number in the left margin of this report refers to an item summarized in the Executive Summary table.

## 1.1 Specific Site Surveillance Features

**Access Road, Gate, and Signs**—The road to the site is graded and hard packed. North of the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River, the road narrows to an unsurfaced dirt track that is overgrown with grass. The road was passable but may be difficult to traverse in wet weather. DOE holds perpetual easements for the access road between County Road 31 and the site. Access to the Bear Creek UMTRCA Title II disposal site will be via this road.

Although there is a wire gate in the stock fence along the access road, the site itself is open range (unfenced). The site has one entrance sign and 10 perimeter signs set on posts along the site boundary. Perimeter sign P3 had a bullet hole but was legible. The post for perimeter sign P6 was bent and had a bullet hole; its sign had fallen to the bottom of the post and was resecured by the inspectors. All other signs were in excellent condition.

**Site Markers and Monuments**—The site has two site markers, eight boundary monuments, and three survey monuments. All markers and monuments were undisturbed and in excellent condition.

**Monitor Wells**—Ground water monitoring is not required at this site.

## 1.2 Transects

To ensure a thorough and efficient inspection, the site was divided into three areas referred to as transects: (1) the disposal site, (2) the site perimeter, and (3) the outlying area.

**Disposal Site**—The Spook site is unique among Title I sites in that the tailings were placed in the bottom of an open pit mine and covered with 40 to 60 feet of clean fill and topsoil. None of the observations and concerns routinely associated with above-grade disposal cells, such as quality of the riprap, stability of side slopes, or the presence of deep-rooted plants, apply to this site.

The surface of the site was in excellent condition. There was no evidence of settling over the back-filled open pit mine. The reseeded areas have healthy and well-established grasses and forbs. Sagebrush is establishing in the reseeded areas and, except for the sagebrush being less prevalent or mature in the disturbed areas, the vegetation is indistinguishable from that which grows naturally on the surrounding hills and valleys.

Minor gully erosion continues on site, although most gullies have stabilized. No action is justified at this time because of natural stabilization and revegetation processes; however, these features will continue to be monitored.

The site perimeter is not fenced, and the adjacent landowner, Hornbuckle Ranch, manages the grazing on DOE property. The range appeared to be healthy and not overgrazed.

A water supply well remains at the site on DOE property. The well and the ground water it intercepts belong to DOE, but the adjacent landowner, Hornbuckle Ranch, historically has used the well for irrigation and for watering livestock. The well has not been used recently as

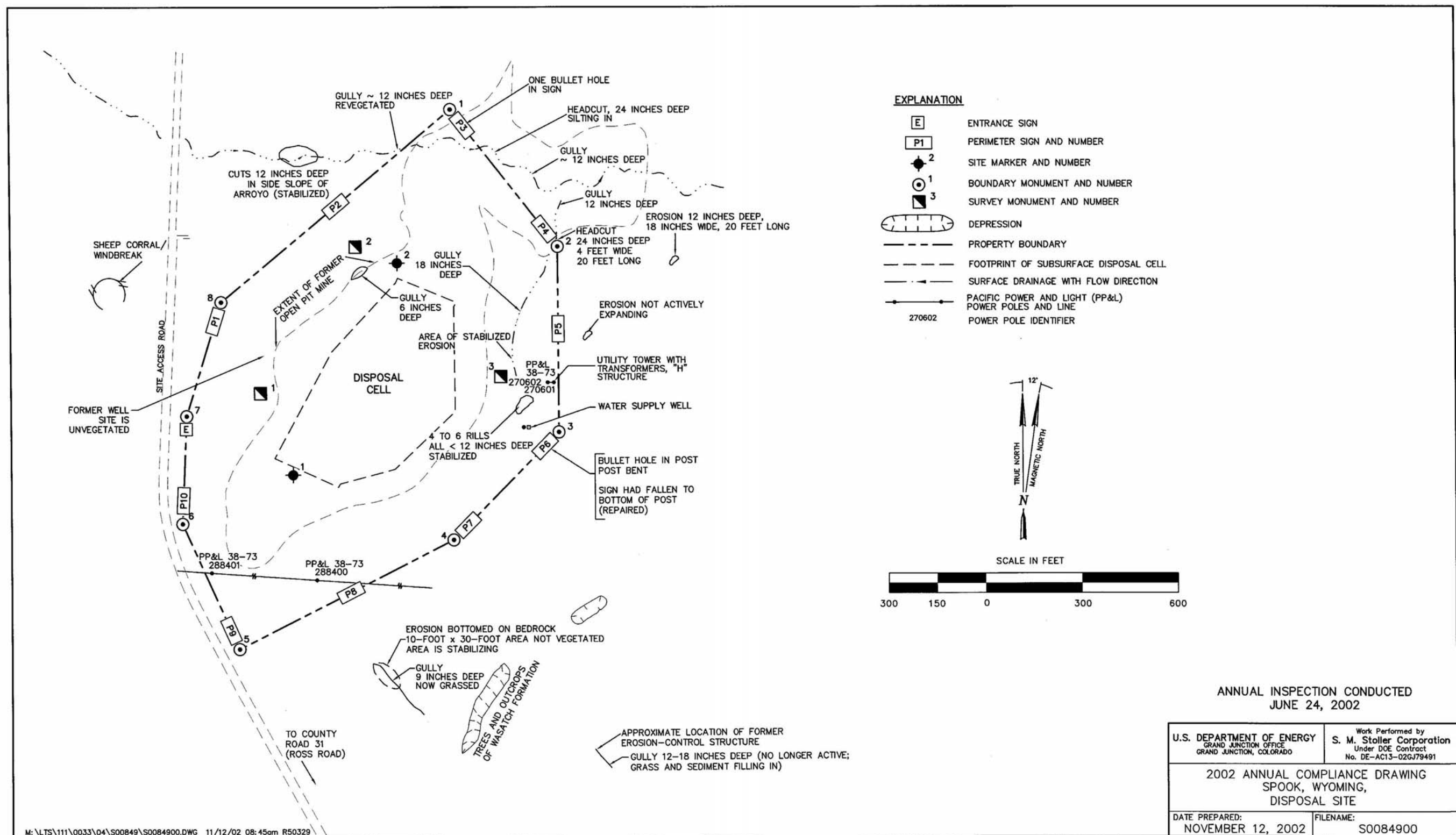


Figure 18–1. 2002 Annual Compliance Drawing for the Spook, Wyoming, Disposal Site

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indicated by the removal of the electricity meter. DOE executed an agreement establishing DOE ownership of the well and providing Hornbuckle Ranch access to the well and use of the ground water at no cost or liability to DOE.

A power line and three transformers on a platform remain on site for power to the water supply well. The Pacific Power and Light Company holds a right-of-way agreement that survives the change of ownership to DOE.

**Site Perimeter**—The site perimeter was in excellent condition. No erosion or other disturbance was observed. If there were no perimeter signs along the boundary, the perimeter of the site would be indistinguishable from the open range beyond.

**Outlying Area**—The area outward for a distance of about 0.25 mile from the site boundary was visually inspected. No disturbance, change in land use, or other features of possible concern were observed.

Formerly active areas of erosion northeast and southeast of the site continue to be filling in with sediment and revegetating naturally. Erosion continues to occur in a gully near perimeter sign P4. This active location and formerly active areas will continue to be monitored.

## **2.0 Follow-Up or Contingency Inspections**

No follow-up or contingency inspections were required in 2002.

## **3.0 Routine Maintenance and Repairs**

Other than resealing a perimeter sign, no maintenance was required in 2002.

## **4.0 Ground Water Monitoring**

Ground water monitoring is not required at this site because the uppermost aquifer is a Class III aquifer of limited use, and supplemental standards have been applied to ground water.

## **5.0 Corrective Action**

Corrective action is action taken to correct out-of-compliance or hazardous conditions that create a potential health and safety problem or that may affect the integrity of the disposal cell or compliance with 40 CFR 192.

No corrective action was required in 2002.

End of current section